COLD WAR
CANADA PREPARES TO TAKE ON RUSSIA FOR WORLD JUNIOR CROWN {page 16}

VANCOUVER metro®
Wednesday, January 5, 2011
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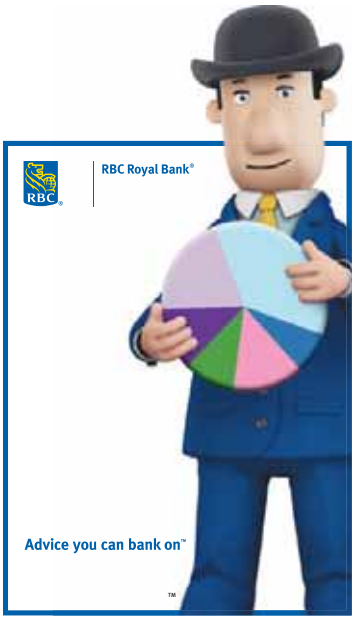
News worth sharing.



Abbott eyes ballot on carbon tax

If made premier, former cabinet minister would piggyback question on carbon tax increases onto the HST referendum ◗ Campaign about giving citizens more say in government decisions, candidate says

MATT KIELTYKA
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

The future of British Columbia's carbon tax will be left up to the people if George Abbott has his way.

The Liberal leadership candidate rolled out his action plan in Vancouver yesterday and vowed to lump the carbon tax into the HST referendum that's scheduled for Sept. 24, should he become premier.

The tax is scheduled to peak at $30 per tonne of CO2 emissions next year and Abbott wants to know if voters would rather see it frozen at that level or raised even higher.

"It's clear to me that people want a greater role in decisions that affect their quality of life," said Abbott.

B.C. remains the only province with a carbon tax and Abbott said the latest economic recession has scared off other jurisdictions.

Environmentalists worry freezing the tax will slow environmental progress.

"(The tax rate) needs to be at a higher level if we want to make it effective," argued provincial Green party leader Jane Sterk.

Abbott's plan

- Independent review of the B.C. Rail trial settlement.
- Regular regional caucus meetings.
- Utilizing telephone town halls, online chats and social media.
- Moving the throne speech to the fall.
- Establishing fall elections.
- New Integrity Act for government officials and staff.
- Pushing for elected federal Senate members.

Campaign. Up in smoke

▶ Tommy Chong attends a party in Santa Monica, Calif., in 2005.

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Chong urges support for Larsen

The iconic comedian, musician and marijuana activist announced via a YouTube video yesterday that he has joined B.C.'s NDP in support of leadership candidate Dana Larsen. Chong said Larsen could "change the face of this country" and urged people to join the party by Jan. 17 to be eligible to vote in the mid-April leadership contest.

They're not dating — yet

Bullock, Reynolds spending 'quality time' together {page 8}

Getting creative with resumés

How online tools can help you land your dream job {page 13}

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Manchester	from $349 + taxes & fees $510
Miami	from $349 + taxes & fees $120
New York	from $438 + taxes & fees $133
Frankfurt	from $499 + taxes & fees $386
Paris	from $548 + taxes & fees $428
Costa Rica	from $599 + taxes & fees $239
Bangkok	from $659 + taxes & fees $317
Hong Kong	from $669 + taxes & fees $165
Tokyo	from $679 + taxes & fees $369
Sydney	from $819 + taxes & fees $436
Auckland	from $929 + taxes & fees $372

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3 Nights + Lift Passes — from $399 + taxes & fees $44
INCLUDES ski-in/ski-out accom in the heart of Sun Peaks Village & 3-day lift pass.

Whistler 2 Nights + Lift Passes — from $449 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES Whistler Village accom with full kitchen, fireplace & 2-day lift pass.

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Air + 3 Nights + Car + Lift Passes — from $689 + taxes & fees $51
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Weekend Getaways

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taxes & fees included
INCLUDES Harrison Lake accom over Valentine's Day weekend.

Victoria 2 Nights 4-Star — from $148 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom close to Victoria's Inner Harbour.

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Air + 3 Nights 4-Star — from $599 + taxes & fees $167
INCLUDES Rogers Centre accom close to Toronto's entertainment district.

Vacations

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Air + 7 Nights
from **$799**
+ taxes & fees $120
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Paris & London
Air + 8 Nights — from $1199 + taxes & fees $502
INCLUDES air into Paris, return from London, 4 nights Paris accom, Eurostar transfer & 4 nights London accom.

Italy Air + 8 Nights — from $1499 + taxes & fees $376
INCLUDES air into Rome, 3 + 1 night Rome accom, rail transfer to Naples & 4 nights Sorrento accom.

Peru Air + 7-Day Tour — from $1899 + taxes & fees $268
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ADD roundtrip transfers from $46.

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Egypt 15-Day Tour — sale $1048 taxes & fees included
HIGHLIGHTS Cairo, Aswan, Nile Felucca, Luxor, Alexandria, Siwa Oasis, Bawiti & White Desert Camp. Roundtrip Cairo.

Costa Rica 15-Day Tour — sale $1164 taxes & fees included
HIGHLIGHTS San Jose, Tortuguero National Park, Sarapiqui, La Fortuna, Arenal Volcano, Monteverde & Quepos. Roundtrip San Jose.

Cuba 8-Day Tour — sale $1204 taxes & fees included
HIGHLIGHTS Havana, Soroa, Vinales, Trinidad & Cienfuegos. Roundtrip Havana.

Family Vacations

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INCLUDES accom adjacent to *Disneyland* Resort. Price per person based on family of 4.

Orlando Family Special
Air + 7 Nights — from $489◊ + taxes & fees $125
INCLUDES accom with complimentary shuttle to theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4.

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+ taxes & fees $274

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Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star	from $677 + taxes & fees $206
Cancun 7 Nights 4-Star	from $698 + taxes & fees $274
Costa Rica 7 Nights 4-Star	from $767 + taxes & fees $240

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Southern Caribbean
7-Night Valentine's Cruise — from USD $479 + taxes & fees USD $46
CRUISE roundtrip San Juan and visit St Thomas, Dominica, Grenada, Bonnaire & Aruba.

Spain & Morocco
9-Night Cruise — from $582 + taxes & fees $125
CRUISE roundtrip Barcelona and visit Casablanca, Agadir, Las Palmas, Funchal & Malaga.

Panama Canal
10-Night Cruise — from $958 + taxes & fees $332
CRUISE roundtrip Fort Lauderdale and visit Puerto Limon, Panama Canal (cruising), Gatun Lake, Colon, Curacao, Aruba & Half Moon Cay.

Mediterranean
12-Night Cruise — from USD $1299 + taxes & fees USD $84
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Connecting in the cold

- Police trying to build trust with homeless through consistent outreach
- Vancouver shelters at capacity because of cold weather this week

▶ Const. Jodyne Keller, right, speaks with a homeless man in a still from a VPD video.

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

The first thing Vancouver Police Const. Jodyne Keller does when she starts her shift in the pre-dawn morning is to make sure the homeless people sleeping on the streets are still alive.

"Who else is doing that in our community?" said Keller, the department's homeless outreach co-ordinator.

Keller said she and her team spend their days walking the streets, handing out blankets and socks, and connecting people with shelter.

This is especially important on weeks like this, when temperatures are below freezing.

"It's important for the VPD to make connections with people on the street," Keller said, adding there's a misconception that all homeless people are able to connect with social services. "A lot are addicts and a lot have nothing but an elementary school education," she said. "And yet we ask these people to go out, fill out applications, find housing and connect with welfare." She said many people are ashamed to admit they can't do this on their own, and that's why Keller's team helps them with their paperwork and getting them to appointments.

"When they see my face every day, there's trust formed," she said.

"They're human beings. Look at them in the eyes and just say hello ... If you do nothing more than that you restore (their) dignity."

On the streets

As many as 1,800 people in Vancouver are homeless, according to the recent homeless count.

▶ **Increase** This number is up from 1,500 recorded during the previous count.

De Jong calls for smaller government

Scaling back the size of the province's executive branch will be necessary if B.C. plans to seriously tackle its $1.7-billion deficit, Liberal leadership candidate Mike de Jong declared yesterday. A de Jong administration would shrink the provincial cabinet to less than 20 ministers, cut the budget of the premier's office by 10 per cent, and post the expense accounts of all MLAs online in order to promote greater fiscal responsibility, he said. J.J. McCULLOUGH

2 Mounties charged with assault

Two Coquitlam RCMP officers have been charged with assault in connection with a traffic stop they conducted last June. Constables Marko Duran, 38, and Trevor Doylend, 33, were allegedly involved in an altercation with a driver.

KRISTEN THOMPSON

Baby girls injured in fire: Report

Twin infant girls are believed to have been seriously injured when their bed apparently caught fire at a Surrey apartment building last night.

According to unconfirmed reports, two men from across the hall broke into the suite to save the 20-month-old girls from the fire, which broke out around 6 p.m. and was contained in a single room in the third-floor suite in the 9500 block of 127th Avenue.

The condition of the infants was not known at press time. METRO

1 news

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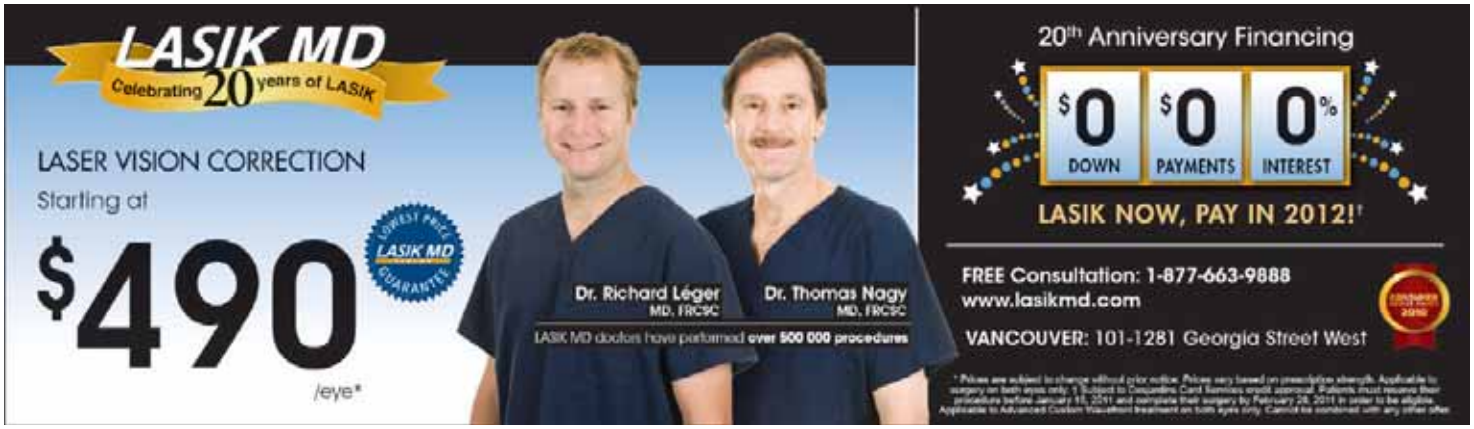

News in brief

Assassination in Punjab

ISLAMABAD. Gov. Salman Taseer of the powerful Punjab province was assassinated in the capital yesterday by one of his guards, who said he was angry about the politician's stance against the country's blasphemy law, officials said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What the *&%$?

PHILADELPHIA. Firing off four-letter words won't be considered a crime anymore in Pennsylvania. State police have agreed to stop citing the public for mere cursing, thanks to a federal free-speech lawsuit settlement.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Baby-nabbing suspect awaits bail

MODELMAYHEM.COM
▶ Model Michelle Marie Gopaul is charged in the abduction.

New York model's family arrives for support ◐ Infant safely home

The tearful mother of a New York model charged in a bizarre baby abduction at a movie casting call was in a Toronto courtroom as her daughter appeared briefly yesterday.

Michelle Marie Gopaul, 24, is accused of snatching a one-month-old baby girl after taking part in what appears to have been a bogus casting call for a Bollywood movie last week.

Gopaul appeared in green jailhouse garb as her lawyer Gary Batasar asked that the case be put off until next Tuesday to give him time to prepare.

Police allege a one-month-old baby girl was abducted last Thursday night after her parents took her to a casting call for a movie shoot that had been advertised on Craigslist. The unharmed baby was returned to her parents a few hours later when a member of the public brought her to a police station.

"The family members are obviously very concerned about her well-being."
GARY BATASAR, DEFENCE LAWYER

Outside court, Batasar said Gopaul was not denied bail during her court appearance on Saturday and in fact had not yet had a bail hearing.

"The family members are obviously very concerned about her well-being," he said.

The fact that Gopaul and her relatives are American citizens complicates the case in terms of finding a surety.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ford Canada overtook GM in 2010

Canadian December sales at Ford highest in more than 10 years

Ford has toppled General Motors as Canadian auto industry leader for the first time in more than 50 years.

Oakville, Ont.-based Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd. claimed the title yesterday after reporting that sales of new cars and trucks jumped 19 per cent to 267,974 vehicles in 2010 from the previous year.

General Motors of Canada Ltd. will release its December and year-end results later in the day but analysts say Ford had built an insurmountable lead throughout the year.

"Sales titles are nice to have but we remain focused on building long-term, sustainable, profitable growth."
DAVID MONDRAGON, FORD CANADA'S PRESIDENT AND CEO

David Mondragon, Ford Canada's president and chief executive officer, suggested Ford is in a good position to retain its lead in an extremely competitive industry this year because of a strong lineup of cars since consumers will likely shift from trucks as fuel prices climb.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ The F-Series pickup truck

Although Ford made gains in car sales in 2010, the F-Series pickup truck has powered the company's resurgence in Canada during the last five years.

F-Series sales hit 97,913 in 2010, the highest total for any vehicle in one year in Canadian history. The model has led pickup truck sales for 45 consecutive years here.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Unusual. Store

▶ Employee Gabrielle Silva operates the drive-thru lane in Huntsville, Ala., at the "romance" store called Pleasures, billed as America's first drive-thru with adult novelties for sale.

DAVE MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Serving up some spice

Business at the drive-thru adult-novelty store Pleasures is brisk so far, with cars sometimes lining up three deep for vibrators, lubricants, lingerie and other risque items. Shoppers must first fill out a medical checklist provided by the store.

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
– 40.91 (13,402.31)	– 0.39¢ (100.15¢ US)	– $2.17 US ($89.38 US)	$4.650 (– 1.9¢)
			Gold contracts $1,378.80 (– $44.10)

Company seeks FDA approval for moist smokeless tobacco

Tobacco maker Star Scientific Inc. says it has developed a moist smokeless tobacco with lower levels of cancer-causing chemicals than any other tobacco product now on the market.

The small Virginia company, which sells tobacco lozenges that dissolve in the mouth, said yesterday it plans to soon ask the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for approval to sell the new item as safer than any competing product.

Star Scientific hopes its products will be the first the federal agency allows to be marketed as less harmful than other forms of tobacco. The company says the "modified-risk" label that the FDA is developing belongs on the new Stonewall Moist-BDL because it contains 90 per cent to 99 per cent less tobacco-specific carcinogens than other smokeless tobacco products.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ADVERTISEMENT

LeafSource stops woman's pain within days!

"It works! I'll take another two bottles please!"

This coming from a customer who had tried every other natural remedy under the sun in the past few years to take away her pain. Ian, the owner of the health food store couldn't believe his ears. He had finally found the perfect product to stop his customer's miseries. This is what every owner of a health food store dreams about, a natural product that receives so many outstanding testimonials on such a wide variety of health issues *"I had recommended a new product called LeafSource, which we recently started carrying. We have had tremendous success with this product, and almost everyone we have recommended it to over the last few months has come back and thanked us over and over again"* said Ian.

Before trying LeafSource, the woman had complained about her ongoing joint pain and was at her wit's end. Although she had experienced some relief through the numerous natural remedies she had tried over the years, the pain would never fully go away. *"She returned to my store, in tears, less than one week after buying LeafSource. I didn't know what to make of this woman standing in front of me crying, until she told me that within a few days of taking LeafSource her pain started to disappear and within a week it was completely gone -as if it was never there."* Ian goes on, *"This coming from a woman whose painful joints and ongoing sciatica were so bad just one week earlier, that the pain was unbearable but now has completely subsided."* By now you are probably wondering what is LeafSource and why is it so effective? LeafSource is a 100% natural product derived from a proprietary organic mineral composite with over ten years of university research. LeafSource helps regulate the inflammatory process and the body's ability to repair itself. The vast majority (70 - 80%) of the population over the age of 50 have joint problems — often called osteoarthritis. This is due to the natural (or unnatural) wear and tear on joint tissue that develops through the aging process. With joint inflammation, movement is limited and pain can be constant. LeafSource seems to have the ability to help people get their mobility and zest for life back. Millions of people seek treatment for their joint and inflammation problems by resorting to expensive, toxic prescription drugs (i.e. NSAIDs) with multiple side effects. These range from nausea and vomiting to serious intestinal disorders (bleeding, gas, pain) and even kidney and liver failure. Isn't that too large a price to pay for a little pain relief!? LeafSource is a safe alternative to these destructive anti-inflammatory drugs that cause more problems than they solve. There are absolutely no side effects and it doesn't interfere with any other medications. Controlled experiments and observations have revealed that LeafSource is a potent anti-inflammatory that has been shown to bring a reduction to inflammation and pain within a few days. People notice great results in terms of more energy and less pain by taking anywhere from 2 to 6 capsules/day. Typical maintenance is usually 1 capsule twice daily. This product gets results! LeafSource is scientifically validated through more than 10 years of research at 4 universities, including the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mercer University. Aside from its incredible anti-inflammatory and pain reducing ability, it has also been shown to improve the performance of your daily nutrition and vitamin programs. It helps increase the absorption of vital nutrients, which in turn helps these nutrients work better. Better absorption = better results! It's almost as if they have become supercharged! LeafSource has also been shown to help enhance energy levels, improve intestinal health, strengthen hair, skin and nails and improve immune function. To see someone go from intense pain to a new lease on life within a week is truly incredible. Imagine being able to move freely without pain. Who wouldn't want to get out of bed in the morning with more energy? It's amazing how much of this stuff we take for granted, until it's gone! Ian adds, *"I often recommend that LeafSource be taken with other natural joint products in order to help them work better and provide even faster relief. One of the things I hear most often from people who have tried LeafSource is they just plain feel better, have more energy and less pain. We're so confident, we guarantee LeafSource 100%! That alone should be enough to try this incredible product."*

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PAUL 2.0 LOOKING FOR A 2011 UPGRADE

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours, and let every new year find you a better man."
— Ben Franklin

I'm not sure if Ben Franklin invented New Year's resolutions, but he invented everything else, so let's give him the benefit of the doubt.

Every year, I go looking for a better man to take my place, but for some reason I can never find one, so I try to improve on the current model: Paul 2.0.

Of course, I'm not the only one. Most of us are unwrapping our 2011 calendars with the same sense of deluded optimism. And if our optimism doesn't seem deluded now, I'll check in again Dec. 31 and see how you feel.

According to the Farmer's Almanac, the top five New Year's resolutions are: 1. Lose weight; 2. Pay off debt; 3. Get in shape; 4. Eat right; and 5. Reduce stress.

All admirable goals. If you're like me, you've probably achieved each and every one.

For example, I have no trouble losing weight. And even less trouble putting it back on again.

I pay off debt like crazy. I'm never without debt to pay off.

I'm in shape. Pear shape.

I eat right. And left. And sometimes with both hands at the same time.

"Maybe it's not you or me after all; maybe the resolutions are unrealistic ... We need less ambitious resolutions."

And I reduce stress by overeating, retail therapy, and taking to the couch, preferably all three at once.

I can't figure out why Paul 2.0 is so elusive. I have the blueprint, and if that doesn't work, every talking head on the planet knows how to keep my New Year's resolutions. All I have to do is …

Maybe it's not you or me after all; maybe the resolutions are unrealistic. (Maybe? Have you ever met a successful resolution keeper? I didn't think so.) We need less ambitious resolutions.

So, this year, I resolve never to turn left without signalling. I resolve to tie a double knot so my shoelaces don't come undone. And, as a bonus resolution, I'm going to put the toilet seat back down!

Now these are resolutions that have a chance of being kept. If you think they lack a certain, um, resolve let's compare notes again Dec. 31 and see who kept what.

Let's give the Father of All Resolutions the last word, this time on the whole idea of resolutions: "Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve."

Next year, I might try that.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Worth mentioning

No more guessing

Dutch and Polish scientists have discovered that DNA can be used to predict people's hair colour, leading to the possibility of using the findings in future forensic investigations to identify individuals.

In a study published this week in the journal Human Genetics, a team of scientists led by Manfred Kayser, head of the department of forensic molecular biology at Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, found that DNA can predict with an accuracy of more than 90 per cent whether a person has red or black hair.

They also found that by using DNA samples, they can predict with an accuracy of 80 per cent whether a person's hair is blond or brown.

Scientists collected hair samples from 385 Polish people between 2005 and 2009. The hair colour was classified into seven categories: Blond, dark blond, brown, auburn, blond-red, red, and black. Previously, red hair was the only hair colour that could be predicted from DNA.

Kayser and his colleagues also found that their DNA approach allowed them to differentiate hair colours that are similar, such as someone who might have blond hair versus another person who might have dark blond hair.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What's your favourite winter sport?

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Metro Minute with Flora of B.C.

Curious about the names of some wildflowers on your street, the University of B.C.'s new Beaty Biodiversity Museum is a good place to study. The museum, which boasts Canada's largest blue whale skeleton, is currently holding a special exhibit, Flora of B.C. Visitors will see more than 100 preserved specimens of plants and algae and learn about them and where they are from. There is also a large collection of fossils, insects, fish and more. The Beaty Biodiversity Museum is located at 2212 Main Mall at UBC's Point Grey Campus and is open Wednesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is $12 for adults and $8 for children. Visit beatymuseum.ubc.ca for more.

AYAKA KAWAI

CONTRIBUTED

▶ The University of B.C.'s Beaty Biodiversity Museum is hosting a special exhibit, Flora of B.C.

HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Stephen Campbell Moore, left, Nicolas Cage and Ron Perlman all star in the Season of the Witch.

Scratching his scary movie itch

Nicolas Cage dives into genre with new sequence of movie releases ◐ Season of the Witch is up first

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Nicolas Cage kicks off 2011 by heading back to the 14th century for Season of the Witch. Cage sat down with Metro to talk about how he chooses his roles, working with wolves and what's still on his to-do list.

With this film, last year's The Sorcerer's Apprentice and your upcoming Drive Angry, you're doing a lot of supernatural movies lately.

I've always had an interest in it. It's just that lately there's been more of them in sequence — and that's by design, because I did want to show that I was choosing my roles, that these were opportunities to me that were being selected to create a kind of new body of work. And I think it's because I don't want to feel tied down.

The sequence in the film when you're attacked by wolves looked pretty harrowing.

That was interesting. They're still wild. You read stories about things going horribly wrong. They're feral, you know? I mean, some of those shots the wolf was right there, right by my face. And I had a few visions of my face coming...off. No pun intended.

How was it filming in such remote locations?

I just kept waking up every day so happy to be there. To make a movie in that environment was really a huge pleasure for me. You can tell the difference. There were some special places we went to also that were like Celtic sacred sites. Some of the forests in the Austrian alps were some of the first areas that those people started to congregate. It was kind of magical.

Is there a genre you haven't done yet that you'd like to?

Well, I haven't done a musical yet, and I'd like to try that at some point. But I don't know what it would be. But yeah, I'd find that interesting.

Do you think you've scratched your scary movie itch?

I hope I have more than one. And I'm hoping that one day, when I get a little more time, I can direct one. That's the plan, but that's probably not going to be until I get into my 50s.

What type of scary movie do you think you'd like to direct?

I think it's a mixture of the kind of Japanese dream logic that we see in movies like Ringu and The Grudge combined with a sort of antebellum southern United States grandiosity.

I'll try to find a way to marry those two elements to make a horror film. I was thinking about a... well, I don't know if I should talk about it because I haven't written it yet.

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

NICOLAS IS A CAGED ANIMAL

Season of the Witch star has built his career on giving the all-or-nothing performance

A cleverly edited YouTube video featuring a montage of Nicolas Cage "losing it" in the movies has racked up 1,677,816 views, which is probably more people than saw his recent trilogy of Razzie Award worthy work, The Wicker Man, Bangkok Dangerous and Knowing.

The vid is an eye opening look at Cage's trademarked brand of extreme acting; a method of over emoting perfected in the 66 movies he's made since his debut (under his real name Nicolas Coppola) in 1982's Fast Times at Ridgemont High. Citing The Incredible Hulk star Bill Bixby as a major acting influence, he has always been, for better and for worse, one of our most completely fearless (and koo koo bananas) actors.

This weekend's Season of the Witch promises an extra helping of full throttle Cage and will likely do some bang-up box office, but the actor has made many other, lesser known movies that are also worth a look.

One writer called Cage's work in Vampire's Kiss "a grand stab at all-out, no-holds-barred comic acting or one of the worst dramatic performances in a film this year" and 21 years after those words were written it's still hard to judge. The story of a man who may — or may not — be turning into a vampire is best remembered as the movie in which Cage ate a live cockroach, but also features one of his most unhinged performances.

A few years later came Red Rock West, a genre busting movie that unfairly barely made it to theatres. Cage hands in some of his best work as a broke but honest drifter, but only took the role after Kris Kristofferson turned it down.

At the intersection of Vampire's Kiss and Red Rock West is Wild at Heart, a film that perfectly showcases Cage's manic energy. As Sailor, he's a one of a kind Elvis wannabe with a snakeskin jacket and an attitude. It's a bravura performance that, like the jacket which he says, "represents a symbol of my individuality," is a symbol of his artistic individuality.

2 scene

SNL

Jim Carrey and Gwyneth Paltrow will kick off the new year for Saturday Night Live with back-to-back hosting gigs. NBC said yesterday that Carrey will preside over this week's edition. Paltrow will take her third turn at hosting the show on Jan. 15.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roger Ebert's new movie-review show names film critic Ignatiy Vishnevetsky as a co-host

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Dating Bieber comes at a cost

Disney star caught canoodling with Bieber in the Caribbean over the holidays Since then, Gomez has received death threats over Twitter

Selena Gomez is learning that being romantically linked to Justin Bieber can be dangerous, according to the Daily Mail.

The 18-year-old Disney star was photographed canoodling with the 16-year-old singer on a yacht in the Caribbean over the holidays.

Since then Gomez has been receiving death threats from Bieber's fans on Twitter.

"Roses are red, violets are blue, [Selena Gomez] if you'll break [Justin Bieber's] heart I'm gonna kill you," wrote one fan. Another posted, "If you are the girlfriend of Justin, I will kill you. I hate you."

Neither stars have responded to the posts.

METRO

GETTY IMAGES

Selena Gomez

Talking points

What keeps Bieber awake at night

Justin Bieber says his hectic life is giving him insomnia.

"I just turn over all night and think. My mind races," he tells Vanity Fair.

"I think about all the things I didn't have time to think about during the day — like family and God and things that should be more important but you don't have time to think about, because you just get caught up during the day."

One thing he's not losing any sleep over, though, is ruining his successful career. "I know I'm not going to make a life-changing bad decision, as some people have," he says.

METRO

Reynolds, Bullock just friends?

Sandra Bullock has reportedly been spending a lot of time with Ryan Reynolds lately, prompting speculation that they're romantically involved.

But sources tell Popeater that isn't the case — yet. "They love spending quality time together," a source says.

"But they are not a couple, at least not yet. They are both newly single and leaning on each other for support.

"Who knows what will happen in the future, but any rumours of them being together and splitting up Ryan's marriage to Scarlett [Johansson] are false."

METRO

Ryan Reynolds and Sandra Bullock

Celebrity tweets

Neil Patrick Harris [@ActuallyNPH]

I'm a grown man. I'm 37 years old. And yet, I still giggle when anyone says the word 'duty.' Why is that?

Simon Pegg [@simonpegg]

Enjoying a lovely chef's salad right now. I mean the salad is lovely not the chef. Although s/he probably is. S/he made the salad. Mmmmm salad.

Kirstie Alley [@kirstiealley]

Sitting midst a Winter Storm...ahhhh gotta LOVE the drama...unless you are a stray cat....so all STRAYS go to the South garage door. WELCOME

John Cusack [@johncusack]

Off to park city — must snowboard — the urge came quickly — I was prepared to strike.

GETTY IMAGES

Lindsay Lohan

Beach — next door to ex

Apparently Lindsay Lohan will have a familiar face for a neighbour at her new Venice Beach apartment, as ex-girlfriend Samantha Ronson reportedly lives next door, according to Us Weekly.

Ronson was spotted while Lohan's belongings were being moved into the new space.

"Samantha walked out of the building next door," a source says. "She was shaking her head and looking disgusted. She kept saying, 'I didn't plan it this way.'"

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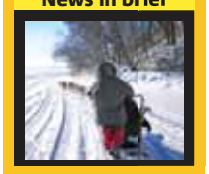
News in brief



Evening outdoor activities in wintertime can be in short supply. But for those inclined to venture into the frigid dark, here's a suggestion from Quebec City Tourism: dogsled rides by torchlight. Two companies in the area offer the experience, the association says in a newsletter.Aventure Inukshuk takes two people per dogsled on 1½-hour rides, followed by a cocktail served by candlelight in a yurt. Aventures Nord-Bec Stoneham offers a package that includes dinner, a dogsled ride and a cocktail served in the woods.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Team snowball fights added to Fur Rondy winter festival in Anchorage

There are plenty of great options for gay tourists across the globe ▸ From tropical beaches to exciting urban centres to beautiful streetscapes, there is something for everyone

Europe's new gay capital: Prague

RANDALL SHIRLEY
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

Most of the gazillion tourists who stroll across Prague's most-famous landmark don't realize it, but the Charles Bridge was built for a king who may have been a "queen." Charles IV, who was the backer of much of Prague's exquisite 14th-century architecture, is believed by gay Czechs to have been one of their own.

Prague, it seems, has been gay-friendly for a very long time.

Near the bridge, local tour guide and anthropologist Petr Prokopík pauses our gay tour group at a statue of strikingly handsome Charles to explain that the much-loved king's marriages were all dubious and politically motivated. Charles banished women from the castle — even as servants, spent most of his time in the company of men, and left a legacy of beautiful architecture. Yes, Petr says, Charles was likely gay.

Fashionistas

Sloboda. With Prague's legacy of creativity and design, it comes as no surprise that one of Europe's up-and-coming fashion designers is the city's current favourite gay son: Jozef Sloboda.

Casual fashion. At his smart shop in the city's Wenceslas Square area, self-trained ("I started by making my sister's dresses") Slodoba's casual fashion for men — shirts, jeans, jackets, hats, underwear— is strikingly fresh and unique ... and expensive.

Gay travellers. Sloboda credits gay locals and travellers with much of his early success that today includes a large straight clientele as well.

In the 21 years since the Czech Republic escaped the grip of communism, the capital city has become a magnet for travellers who come to explore Europe's most impressive collection of architecture and interior design — including stunning examples of Gothic, Baroque, Rococo, and more recently Cubist and even Soviet styles — most of it untouched by the bullets of wars that shattered other European cities. Prague's treasure trove of design makes it the perfect European city for gay travellers. But what gays find in Prague is a city that gives Amsterdam a run for the title of "most gay-friendly city in Europe."

"It is not an issue to be gay in the Czech Republic," Prokopík explains. "Czech people don't care if you are gay."

While other European countries' gay-friendly attitude evolved despite religion, 90 per cent of Czech people have no religion at all, thus less judgment about who sleeps with whom. And it wasn't 40 years of communism that made Czechs free thinkers: turns out their ancestors dumped religion several hundred years ago in a clash between conquering Catholics and local protestants.

Today, "Queen" Charles' beautiful Prague remains a very progressive place, with gay-friendly boutique hotels, a gay pub, and a gay strip club in the middle of town where travellers want to stay. A half-dozen other clubs and restaurants are clustered in the Vinohrady neighbourhood where most of Prague's gay residents live, which is an easy five minute taxi ride from the centre.

WRITER RANDALL SHIRLEY BLOGS AT 5FAVES.COM. HE TRAVELLED MOSTLY AS A GUEST OF CZECH TOURISM

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5 top gay travel destinations

Looking for the best gay-friendly spot for your next holiday? Thinking San Francisco, London or New York? Think again, and look beyond the obvious, say some of the world's leading travel agencies. The industry offers five of the best up-and-coming gay-friendly tourist hotspots, in all corners of the world and for every budget!

FLICKR: BRIANMKA

1
Buenos Aires Argentina

The South American nation recently became the latest country to legalize same-sex marriages and with a very vibrant gay and lesbian community, cultural scene and low prices, it is one of the best new destinations in the world.

Look out for one of the dozen new gay-friendly boutique hotels in trendy Palermo Soho, a neighbourhood packed with stores, restaurants and clubs.

FLICKR: FLYNNBYU

2
Curaçao The Caribbean

Named the best new gay tourist destination in 2009 by the travel agency TripOut Gay, the Dutch Caribbean island is seen as a small version of the European country, with its relaxed attitude, coupled with paradise beaches and all-year-round sun.

FLICKR: MARC_SMITH

3
Cape Town South Africa

The second-biggest city in South Africa has been named the second most gay-friendly city in the world in a survey by travel website Expedia Australia (Sydney is number one).

According to the travel agency, Cape Town combines breath-taking natural sights with plenty of gay-friendly bars, clubs and accommodations to choose from and for all budgets.

Visit the city in February for the two-week-long Cape Town Pride.

FLICKR: IKILLER123

4
Shanghai China

Recommended by Out Traveler magazine and runner-up of TripOut Gay Award 2009 for Breakout gay city, Shanghai is the place to be if what you're looking for is city-life with a growing gay scene. Packed with skyscrapers, shops, street food and the chance to escape to some of its small but beautiful, beaches.

FLICKR: ANJCI

5
Istanbul Turkey

Where the East meets the West, Istanbul's history, food, incredible architecture and friendly people make it an amazing travel destination. Add fantastic nightlife and a growing gay community and you have the perfect gay destination. For more information check out outtraveler.com or tripoutgaytravel.com

METRO

From mild to wild, Fort Lauderdale has it all

Not sure how you want to spend your vacation? Greater Fort Lauderdale has created an app to help you out. Called Mild to Wild, the mobile site offers suggestions on how to spend a day in the city — named America's Favourite Gay Resort Town by gay.com.

A "mild" experience could include a morning excursion to the Fort Lauderdale Antique Car Museum, an afternoon of pampering at Planet Massage, and an evening dinning at Da Campo Osteria at Il Lugano.

"Wild" options include morning surfing, an afternoon with the 'gators at Billie Swamp Safari, and a late night spent at Boardwalk Bar.

The Mild to Wild mobile site also includes suggestion based on the days you are planning so spend in the city, so you can customize your trip.

Greater Fort Lauderdale has more than 150 gay-owned businesses, and is home to the Wilton Manors — known locally as the gaybourhood.

Any trip to the city isn't complete without a visit to Sabastian Beach — located at the junction of Sabastian Street and the A1A. Can't find it? Look for the group of guys in speedos.

Visit glbt.sunny.org for more information.

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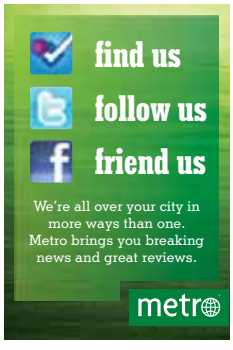
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Not your average Italian soup

This pan-fried sourdough bread and tomato soup is a modern twist on the traditional pappa al pomodoro

Italian bread and tomato soup — known as pappa al pomodoro — is a wonderful way of using up stale bread and overripe tomatoes.

It produces a richly savoury soup that is thick and satisfying enough to make a meal of.

It is typically made by sauteing onions and garlic, then adding tomatoes and cooking.

Just before serving, cubes of stale bread, chopped fresh basil and a bit of chicken broth are stirred in.

With this approach, the order is reversed.

Instead, you pan-fry cubes of bread in olive oil until crisp, then add the tomatoes.

The bread retains a nice chew and the tomatoes also have a nicer texture. It's a keeper.

Preparation:

1. In a large saucepan over medium-high, heat the olive oil.
2. Add the bread and toast, stirring frequently, for 5 minutes. The bread will quickly absorb the oil. Keep the bread moving in the pan so it toasts, but doesn't burn.
3. Add the wine, then continue toasting the bread for another 5 minutes. Add the thyme, oregano and garlic powder, then cook for another for 2 minutes.
4. Add the tomatoes and chicken broth, then mix well but gently. Continue cooking until heated through, then stir in the cheese.
5. When the cheese is melted, season with salt, pepper and add a splash of balsamic vinegar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients :

- 45 ml (3 tbsp) olive oil
- 450 g (1 lb) sourdough bread, cut into cubes (about 8 cups)
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) white wine
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) dried thyme
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) dried oregano
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) garlic powder
- 796 ml (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 250 ml (1 cup) chicken broth
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and ground black pepper, to taste
- Balsamic vinegar, to taste

LARRY CROWE/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Pan frying bread cubes gives this tomato soup a unique flavour.

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TOP 10 of 2010

Register on **metrolifepanel.ca** and vote on your 10 top 10's of 2010.

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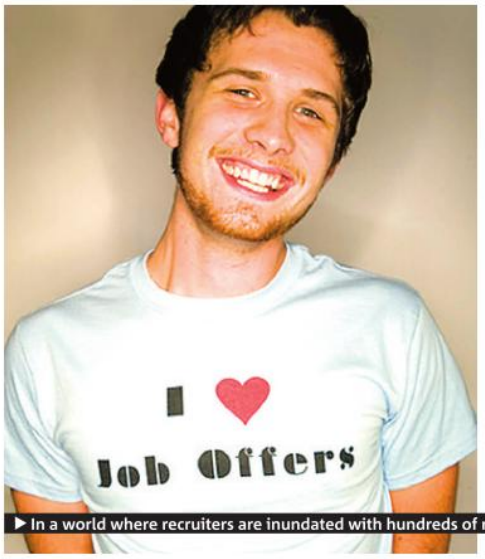

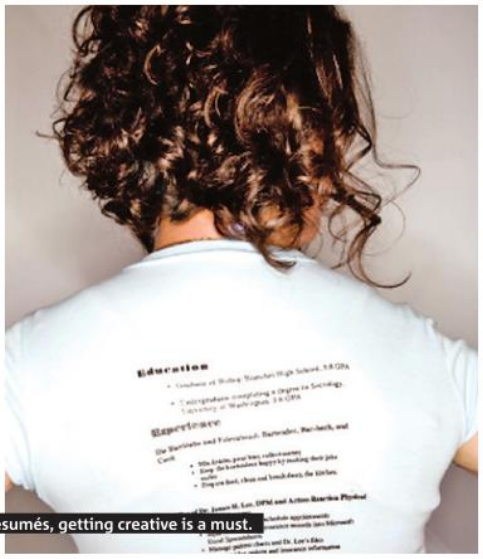

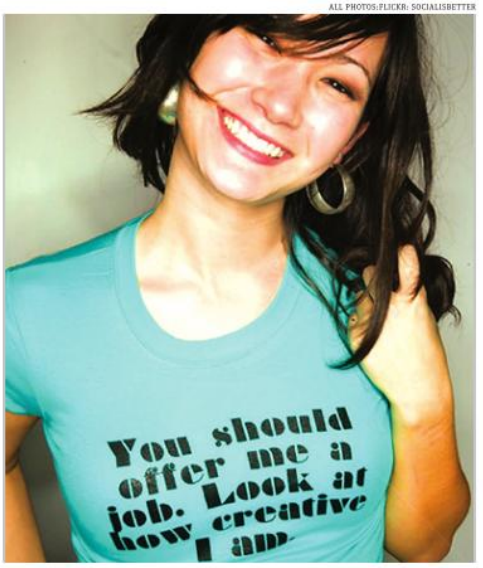

▶ In a world where recruiters are inundated with hundreds of resumés, getting creative is a must.

DREW HINSHAW
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

It's the beginning of a new decade, flush with opportunities for the seizing — unless the resumé you're emailing employers still reads like an antique parchment relic from the paper century.

Today's unemployed enjoy unorthodox tricks to creatively catch the attention of prospective hirers, from posting video, flash, or html-based resumés to taking out pay-per-click ads that plaster your credentials whenever a bored boss Googles "accountant."

But for fear of the unknown, as resumé coach Laura Smith-Proulx notes, all too many Jobless Joes are sticking by their one-page pdfs.

"The single page resumé with an objective up top really went the way of the dinosaurs," she says.

"A lot of people are still very reluctant to create something that's cutting edge because they've never seen a resumé that looks cutting edge."

If your idea of a breathtaking CV involves a Microsoft Word template, re-route your efforts into one of the free online resumé builders like VisualCV.com, President Louise Fletcher of Blue Sky Resumés recommends.

"Those kinds of things are great additions to a personal website," she says. "You can get a lot more information on there than on a traditional resumé, and you can show your personality more."

Plus it's convenient.

"People can choose to click on the link or not," she adds. And for overworked recruiters inundated with attached resumés, that ease of use makes the difference between "why not" and "no."

Promoting your qualifications in 140-character Twitter blasts can grab the eye of the right HR rep, too, Proulx offers.

"It's possible that some companies may be exclusively recruiting in Twitter," she points out, so make sure your Twitter bio is up-to-date.

If you're preparing anything more time-consuming, however — be it a video resumé or some nifty web art — don't bother sending it out to the company HR department.

"When you're doing something different, part of it is coming up with the creative presentation and part of it is being creative about who you get it to," Fletcher explains.

FAQ'S OF THE OFFICE

This year's top workplace questions answered

Workplace Law

DANIEL LUBLIN
IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP.
DAN@TORONTO-EMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions I received in 2010 — and the advice I provide for employees in 2011.

Poor performance reviews:

If you have received a review that you disagree with, then immediately respond, in writing, setting out your concerns with the review and providing any explanations for your behaviour. Then request that the review be redone, or at the least, that your statements be placed in the human resources file.

Workplace Computers:

Employers own workplace computers so anything you send through company email can be monitored without notice and used as grounds for discipline. Do not misuse work computers for personal matters.

Employment Contracts:

Employees do not realize that an implied contract with their employer exists whether or not it is in writing and that implied contract is always more favourable than anything they will be asked to sign. Negotiate contracts or sign them only as a last resort.

Post employment competition:

Employees are free to compete with their employers just as they are free to solicit their old clients and contacts following their departure. Without an agreement stating otherwise, the only post employment restriction an employee has is to keep confidential information confidential.

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Don't let Zs grab hold of your Bs

A disjointed snooze means a student may lose, experts say Prioritize a healthy sleep pattern now

SMATH/FLICKR

Fading into sleep wherever you find a resting spot may have an impact on your schoolwork.

"Sleep hygiene is really underrated," says Dr. Betsy Smith, director of counseling at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. "If you get into a cycle of staying up late and sleeping late, that can lead to real problems."

Creating a steady, restful sleep pattern might be the simplest thing you can do to improve your spring semester.

"There's a number of contributing factors at the end of the fall semester. As you get closer to going home and having to report on how you're doing, the stress can go way up," says Dr. Carolyn Kaufman, a psychologist at Columbus State Community College. "Plus the light changes a lot at the end of the fall. Suddenly you're not getting enough light, and your coping skills are knocked down a notch."

A recent study featured in the medical journal Sleep and Breathing went even further. Focusing on students at Montgomery College in Maryland, researchers looked not just at the amount of sleep, but also the wakeup times, of the students. They found that students who rise earlier have better GPAs.

But that might not be the answer for everybody, especially students in the arts.

"There's research that suggests that creative people tend to be night people," says Kaufman. "If they get themselves up earlier, they're not more productive, because they're missing their best hours. … It's better to create a consistent pattern." METRO

Technology to keep you on track

New gadgets are helping the modern masses gain control over the use and misuse of, well – their gadgets

Dan Nainan can't trust himself to work at his computer without clicking on distractions, so he uses an Internet-blocking program to shut down his web access twice a day.

"I'm sorry, but try as I might, I could never, ever do this on my own," said the New York City comedian who's struggling to finish a book. "I wish I could, but I just don't have the discipline."

Nainan's system of two, two-hour blocks is one example of how Americans are trying to control their impulses using technology that steps in to enforce good behaviour.

Many tools are now available to help people stay in line, including a GPS-enabled app that locks down texting once a car gets rolling and a program that cuts off credit-card spending. Another device monitors your workout and offers real-time voice feedback.

Have we entered an era in which electronics serve as mother, cop and coach because we can't manage our own desires?

Yep, said Ann Mack, a trend-watcher for JWT Intelligence, an arm of the marketing giant. She named "outsourcing self-control" and "de-teching" as two top trends for the new year.

"The thing is we're becoming more aware of these behaviours and, as a result, we're trying to seek help to circumvent some of our more base impulses," Mack said. "We're bombarded more and more with temptations on a regular basis, and it's getting increasingly difficult to deal with that." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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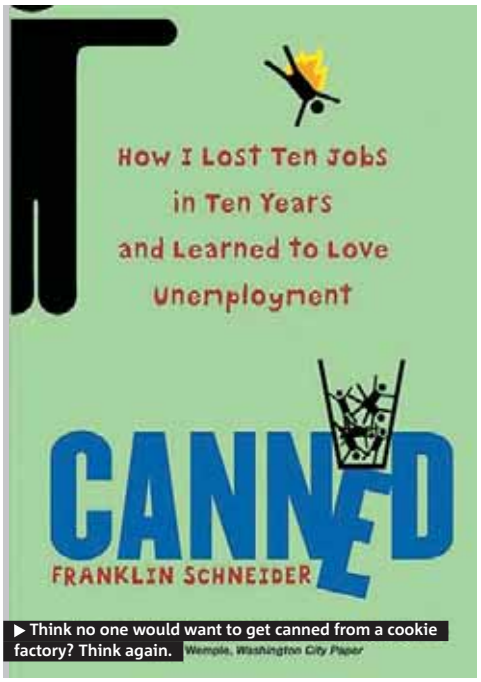
The joy of being jobless

Franklin Schneider can hold down a job, he just really doesn't want to



▶ Think no one would want to get canned from a cookie factory? Think again. Wemple, Washington City Paper

In Franklin Schneider's humorous new book, Canned: How I Lost Ten Jobs in Ten Years and Learned to Love Unemployment, Schneider enumerates all of his real unemployment and employment stories. From detasseling corn in Iowa and a stint at an oatmeal cookie factory to becoming one of the most triumphant telemarketers in America, he finally figured out that no matter what job you have, "you are either being exploited or you are exploiting someone."

From all of these adventures, Schneider has decided that working a full-time job is nothing more than working in a dysfunctional system.

"There is nothing worse than doing something you don't want to do," says the career renegade. "When you get out of college, you do this desperate job search and you stay because you are scared to come out of it."

"You get three weeks out of 52 in the year to get to do what you actually want to do. That is something to weep about."
FRANKLIN SCHNEIDER

But as Schneider experienced (many times) being canned might not be the worse thing to happen to you. It can be very liberating. After all, the people that have that job today "are people with something to lose." They are the ones "hoping to survive the next round of cuts" as they spend hours "pouring over mortgage statements and investment portfolios and clasping their foreheads and asking, 'How, how did this happen?'" MEYRO

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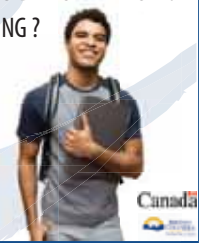
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Paralegal Saturday, Jan. 8, noon – room 203	Downtown
Office Administration Certificate Monday, Jan. 10, 5:30 p.m. – room 419	Downtown
Gemmology: MasterValuer Appraisal Monday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m. – room 164	Downtown
Certified Dental Assisting & Dental Reception Tuesday, Jan. 11, 5 p.m. – room 501	Downtown
TESOL Programs Tuesday, Jan. 11, noon – room 526	Downtown
Baking and Pastry Arts Wednesday, Jan. 12, 10:30 a.m. – room 216	Downtown
Hair Design and Esthetics Wednesday, Jan. 12, 4:30 p.m. – room 201	Downtown
ESL Homefront – Volunteer Tutors Thursday, Jan. 13, 1:30 p.m. – room 3709	Broadway

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Broadway campus is located at 1155 East Broadway, one block west of Clark Drive and across from VCC/Clark SkyTrain station.
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4 sports

It all comes down to this

Canadian goaltender prepares for 'the biggest game I've ever played in my life' Russians have improved since opening-game loss to Canada

ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Team Canada starting goalie Mark Visentin speaks at a press conference yesterday.

Canada's closest rival has been beaten, but now comes the game for gold against an old foe.

Another overwhelmingly pro-Canadian crowd is expected to pack HSBC Arena when Canada takes on a Russian squad with a flair for drama in the final of the world junior hockey championship today (TSN, 4:30 p.m PST).

And no one will be more in the spotlight than goaltender Mark Visentin.

The starter for the nearby Niagara IceDogs of the Ontario Hockey League may have looked shaky as he gave up a goal on the first shot of a 4-1 quarter-final win over Switzerland, but he made the saves he needed and then did the same in another 4-1 victory over the rival Americans in the semifinals.

"I'm excited for the opportunity," Visentin said yesterday. "It's definitely going to be the biggest game I've ever played in my life."

Olivier Roy lost the starting job after he was beaten high twice and then surrendered a pair in a shootout as Canada lost 6-5 to Sweden in its final round-robin game.

But Canada came back with not only a new goaltender in Visentin, but a new level of intensity and a hardened commitment to defensive play as it began single-game knockout competition.

Since the loss to Sweden, they have dominated, allowing only a small handful of good scoring chances to both the Swiss and the Americans as they controlled the boards and the play.

A defence that looked suspect during the preliminary round has suddenly rounded into shape, while the forwards have been strong at both ends.

"They've been excellent in all areas of the ice," said Visentin. "Just protecting against scoring chances and communicating with me when I play the puck.

"That really makes it easier on me. When you come here, you have the best D-men in Canada. It really shows how good they are out there, keeping the shots to under 30 a game. I love them out there. They're doing a great job and we're going to keep it up." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Any time you get to the final of a tournament with the best players in the world, there are no guarantees. All you can do is concentrate on your preparation and give your team the best chance to win."
CANADIAN COACH DAVE CAMERON

"Both of us have got better as the tournament's gone on and I guess we've both proven why we're here and it's going to be a really good game."
GOALTENDER MARK VISENTIN

Scan code for more sports

3 RUSSIAN PLAYERS TO WATCH

VLADIMIR TARASENKO

The stocky winger and captain has made some dazzling plays.

YEVGENI KUZNETSOV

He stole the show in Russia's comeback win over Finland with two goals.

DMITRI SHIKIN

The goaltender took over after the loss to Canada and has won four of five games.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL-leading Canucks remain focused

A deep roster and contributions from the team's best players have pushed the Vancouver Canucks into a territory no Canadian club has occupied for almost five years.

The Canucks are a sizzling 15-1-2 in their last 18 games and are tied with the Detroit Red Wings for first place overall in the NHL.

Climbing to the top of the heap has fed the team's confidence, but general manager Mike Gillis says it's way too early for anyone to be satisfied.

"I don't think anyone is satisfied. We're constantly looking at ways to get better," Gillis said yesterday. "That's the attitude we've had on this team. I think it's continuing, so I wouldn't say we're satisfied at all."

Vancouver has a record of 25-8-5 for 55 points.

According to the NHL, the last Canadian team to be first overall after Christmas was the Ottawa Senators, who were tied for top spot with Detroit on March 24, 2006.

The last time the Canucks were first was March 3, 2003.

Vancouver has been on a torrid run since snapping a four-game losing streak with a 4-2 win over Colorado on Nov. 24. While only three Canucks have scored more than 10 goals this year, the team has been getting steady contributions from all four lines.

"We are now in a position to put complimentary players together," said Gillis. "We're also fortunate in that we have enough depth where if a guy isn't playing particularly well in three or four shifts in a row, he is going to move down the ranks. That keeps a lot of pressure on people.

"There is no room for complacency in the lineup. The new guys on our team have really embraced that attitude."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

9.22

Roberto Luongo was named the league's second star for the month of December after posting a record of 8-1-1, a 2.07 goals-against average, .922 save percentage and one shutout in 10 starts.

Opinion

RORY BOYLEN
THE HOCKEY NEWS

STREAKING CANUCKS CAN LEAVE MARK ON HISTORY

What a month of December it was for the Vancouver Canucks. Record breaking, actually.

It's official: It's been one month since the Canucks failed to earn a point when they lost 3-2 to St. Louis Dec. 5. Since then, the team has had a mixture of wins in games they should have come out on top and wins against competitors who always give them a run for their money. The result? First place in the division, first place in the West, first place overall.

Since the Blues game, the Canucks have a 10-0-2 record, to make up a 12-game streak of games in which they haven't lost in regulation.

Making matters even more impressive is the fact the franchise's current best streak is 14, so if Vancouver can keep it going with wins over rivals Calgary and Edmonton, we'll be talking about new history.

"If Vancouver can keep it going with wins over rivals Calgary and Edmonton, we'll be talking about new history."

But aside from having the NHL's best record in December (11-1-2), the Canucks earned some wins that are beginning to make lifelong skeptics wonder about the upside of this team.

It began with a Dec. 3 win against the Chicago Blackhawks.

Not only were the Canucks trying to get back on track after winning only twice in six games, but they shut out their recent arch nemesis.

Roberto Luongo always seems to have trouble with this young and exuberant team, but 32 shots on goal didn't faze him as he earned his second shutout of the season.

The team was simply overwhelming favourites against Anaheim, Edmonton, Columbus and Toronto, but a bounce-back 3-1 win over St. Louis got that monkey off their back as quickly as it arrived.

To finish December, Vancouver had to face one of the East's best in Philadelphia and an upstart Western team in Dallas.

Even with the Flyers' fire power and how much their individual games resemble that of Chicago's stars, the Canucks swept the Cup finalists under the rug in a 6-2 drubbing that epitomized the East-West divide in the NHL.

And, finally, if anyone at the beginning of the year thought Dallas would be among the West's best, well, they deserve a medal.

Nothing about the Stars stands out, aside from their uncanny ability to find ways to win. Again, the Canucks simply dominated one of the league's best to date with a 4-1 road victory.

Throw in two big early-January road wins against San Jose and division rival Colorado and the new year is looking very surprising for the Canucks.

Heck, if the Canucks can continue their roll and knock off this month's tough contests (Detroit, Washington, Colorado, San Jose, Dallas, Nashville), they might even create the space they need atop the conference to hold the lead into mid-April.

Fans pick Hawks, Penguins

Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin, Kris Letang and Marc-Andre Fleury, and Chicago's Jonathan Toews and Duncan Keith are the six players selected by the fans for the Jan. 30 NHL All-Star game in Raleigh, N.C.

Crosby was the top-voted player with 635,509 total votes. Toews tallied 407,676 total votes and Crosby's Pittsburgh teammate Malkin received 376,887 to round out the top three forwards. Letang, a write-in candidate, was the top-voted defenceman with 477,960 votes and will be joined by fellow defenceman Duncan Keith, who received 382,162.

Marc-Andre Fleury was the top-voted goaltender with 426,305 votes.

The six players will be joined in Raleigh by 36 more all-stars, who will be unveiled on Jan. 11. The 42 all-stars will nominate captains and alternates, who will choose the teams in a draft.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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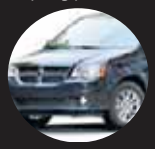
5 drive

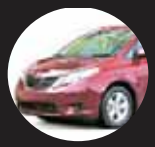
By comparison

Honda Odyssey
Base price: $31,600
All-new 2011 model is roomy, powerful and loaded with features.

Dodge Grand Caravan
Base price: $28,900
Updated with powerful V6 and a much nicer interior. Also a tempting price.



Toyota Sienna
Base price: $29,600
Stylish, spacious and it's the only minivan to offer optional all-wheel-drive.



WHEELBASE MEDIA

Scan code for more car reviews and news

For 2011, Nissan's minivan gets a little form to go with all that function

▶ Is the Quest part of a new super-cool minivan category, or is it an extension of the Venzas, Journeys and Mazda CX-9s of the world? Stylistically, yes to the latter, but without all-wheel-drive, it's still a minivan.

Nissan makes its minivan comeback

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

There might be plenty of room inside most minivans, but will there be enough room for all of the newly reconstituted models that have recently emerged from hibernation?

The Nissan Quest is the most recent member of the minivan group to awaken from its dormant state. Many pundits thought it might never return since there was no 2010 edition.

With an early 2011 due date, the Quest joins the newly altered Toyota Sienna and Honda Odyssey people movers.

They enter the fray alongside Chrysler's one-two punch: the Town & Country and Dodge Grand Caravan minivans that have also been refreshed with better engines and upgraded interior and exterior styling.

▶ The centre-stack-mounted shift lever provides a passthrough for the driver to get to the passenger side without having to straddle a centre console.

Compared to the awkward-looking Quest of old, the styling of the 2011 version is far more pleasing.

The overall design has added curves and sculpting to the hood, doors and rear quarter panels that lessens the typical minivan's boxy appearance. The wrap-around rear glass allows the lift gate to neatly blend in with the rest of the body, despite its extreme upright posture.

Along with the Quest's new suit of clothes, the designers cut the distance between the front and rear wheels by about 15 centimetres, bringing that number more in line with the competition.

This should make the Quest more manoeuvrable in tight spaces without too great a sacrifice in ride quality or passenger room.

As with most minivans, there are three rows of seats, but the Quest comes standard with second-row, high-back buckets instead of a more typical bench. Also unique is the split-folding three-place third row that tilts forward to create a flat load surface.

This is instead of folding into the rear well below the floor, which in the case of the Quest is now always available for discrete stowage of smaller items.

The Quest's 3.5-litre V6 is the workhorse engine for a number of Nissan cars and trucks. In the Quest, it makes 253 horsepower, up from 235 horses.

Being out of the minivan game for the 2010 model year while its competitors were busy bringing out new products could potentially hurt Nissan's attempts at a comeback.

Fortunately, the latest Quest has plenty of style and substance that should resonate with shoppers in this bracket.

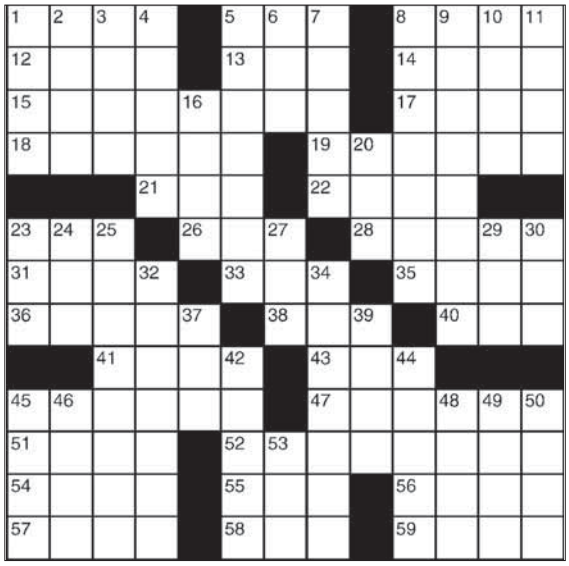
For those folks, it's a Quest very much worth considering.

Nissan Quest

What you should know about the 2011 Nissan Quest:

- **Type:** Four-door, full-size minivan.
- **Engine (hp):** 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (253).
- **Transmission:** Continuously variable.
- **Market Position:** The minivan ranks have been reduced in recent years, resulting in intensified competition among the remaining brands. As a result, the current platforms now offer leading-edge styling, features and fuel economy.
- **Points:** Quest has arguably become the best-looking of the bunch; Inviting, practical interior styling a major leap forward; Honda Odyssey's fuel economy supremacy likely to remain unchallenged; Dodge Grand Caravan's low base price, powerful V6 could also steal Quest's thunder.
- **Safety:** Front airbags; side-impact airbags; side-curtain airbags; anti-lock brakes; traction control; stability control.
- **Stats:** l/100 km (city/hwy) 12.6/8.3 (est.)
- **Base price:** $32,000 (est.) (Including destination)

Crossword



Across
1 Dresses in
5 Navy rank (Abbr.)
8 Early birds?
12 Colorful fish
13 Deteriorate
14 Chick's sound
15 Prepare
17 Sicilian spouter
18 Cleans the cookware
19 Not as small
21 Wildebeest
22 Therefore
23 Joke
26 Historic time
28 Weapon in "Psycho"
31 Individuals
33 North Pole employee
35 Concludes
36 Annie of "Designing Women"
38 Three on a sundial
40 Space
41 Saharan
43 Director Howard
45 On the beach
47 Thwart
51 Military vehicle
52 Fare
54 Asian nursemaid
55 The whole enchilada
56 Approximately
57 Carnival attraction
58 Firmament
59 Trawler equipment

Down
1 Canines
2 Oil cartel
3 Brussels-based org.
4 Unspoken "I don't know"
5 Rubout
6 Affirmative action?
7 Fashion
8 Fancy centerpiece
9 Move on
10 Siskel or Kelly
11 Mast
16 Sea eagle
20 Noah's boat
23 Bush league?
24 "I'll take that as — "
25 Advance
27 Will Smith biopic
29 Rx safety grp.
30 Kreskin's claim
32 Stanza
34 Above all others
37 Round Table address
39 Tittle
42 "La Toilette" artist
44 Hose material
45 Open somewhat
46 Big rig
48 Oliver Twist's request
49 "Meet Me — Louis"
50 Hollywood clashers
53 Wapiti

▶ Friday's answer

Sudoku

	3	1	9			7		
				1		6		3
5	9				4			2
		7						8
	2						7	
3						2		
2			1				6	9
1		4		7				
		5			2	4	1	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Friday's answer ▶

1	5	7	3	2	9	6	4	8
8	4	9	6	5	1	2	7	3
3	6	2	4	7	8	9	5	1
9	7	5	8	4	3	1	2	6
6	1	8	2	9	5	4	3	7
2	3	4	7	1	6	8	9	5
4	2	1	5	8	7	3	6	9
5	8	3	9	6	4	7	1	2
7	9	6	1	3	2	5	8	4

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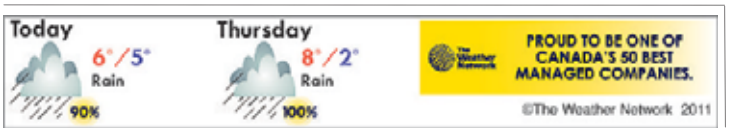
My monkey, my chi-chi! there's no one else who's ever made me feel this way when i asked you how you did it you just say "it was nothing at all" these past few months have been the best of my life and i can't wait for the rest of our lives! I love you! **LOVE YOUR ZEBRA PRINCESS**

Calabacito, Happy new year and thank you for all the wonderful time we spent together all this time. Looking forward to have great moments with you in this new year. **LOVE YOU MUCH + KISSES, YOUR COCONUT.**

To my Tiger,
Thank you for killing the spiders, taking out the garbage, carrying the grocery bags home and most importantly, keeping my feet warm at night. I love you very much!
~YOUR MONKEY.



For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
What seemed so difficult yesterday will seem ridiculously easy today. The task itself may not have changed one bit but your attitude toward it has and that's what makes all the difference.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Listen carefully to what your inner voice tells you today. The answers you are looking for are not somewhere "out there" waiting to be discovered but "in here" where your heart resides.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 You may not want to hurt someone's feelings but you know you have to be honest – it's for their own good. Tell it like it is today

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 The solution to your current predicament is easy enough but you are unlikely to see it until you stop looking at life in such an emotional manner

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 If you do what friends say you should do today you will soon find a way out of your dilemma. Of course, being a Leo you don't like to admit that you got it wrong

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Your insights into how other people behave when under pressure can be used to good effect today, especially on the work front where sudden changes won't worry you as much as they do some of your rivals. They're an opportunity.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You can sense that the tide is turning in your favor again and with it your confidence will soon come flooding back.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You may have good reason to be confident but don't start thinking that nothing can possibly go wrong because that is just asking for trouble.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Others may say you don't deserve all the good things now coming your way but what do they know? What you are enjoying now is what you have earned by your past deeds. Good deeds today will bring a good future too.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You are in the middle of an extremely positive phase, one that will last for at least another two weeks. That may seem like a long time but it will pass quickly enough

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
For best results today don't limit yourself to tried and trusted ways of doing things – use your imagination to come up with new ideas and new ways of looking at the world you inhabit.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Find a quiet place where the world cannot get at you and ask yourself some serious questions about what it is you most want to accomplish in life.

SALLY BROMPTON

HASSAN AMMAR/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caption contest

WIN!

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MATT DUNHAM/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2011 TUCSON L MANUAL • THE AWARD-WINNING COMPACT UTILITY VEHICLE

Limited model shown

STARTING FROM **$21,759♦** WITH **0%** FINANCING FOR **60** MONTHS◊

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AJAC BEST NEW SUV/ CUV UNDER $35K.

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GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM

††The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ♦Prices for models shown: 2011 Accent L 3 Dr. GL Sport is $16,894, 2010 Elantra Limited is $22,944, 2011 Tucson Limited is $34,009. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495/$1,495/$1,760, are included. Registration, insurance, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on new 2010 Elantra L 5-speed with an annual finance rate of 0% for 84 months. Monthly payment is $173. No down payment is required. Dealer participation of $500 for 2010 Elantra L 5-speed is included. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495. Registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2010 Elantra L 5-speed for $14,500 at 0% per annum equals $172.61 per month for 84 months for a total obligation of $14,500. Cash price is $14,500. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,495. Registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. "Leasing offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2011 Sonata GL 6-speed with an annual lease rate of 4.4%. Monthly payment is $299 per month for a 60 month walk-away lease. Down payment of $3,000 and first monthly payment required. Total lease obligation is $20,940. Lease offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,565. Applicable license fees, insurance, registration, PPSA, and taxes are excluded. ▼Fuel consumption for 2011 Accent 3Dr. (HWY 5.7L/100KM; City 7.2L/100KM)/2010 Elantra L 5-speed (HWY 5.6L/100KM; City 7.8L/100KM)/2011 Tucson (HWY 6.5L/100KM; City 9.1L/100KM)/2011 Santa Fe 2.4L 6-Speed Automatic FWD (City 10.4L/100KM; HWY 7.2L/100KM) are based on EnerGuide fuel consumption ratings. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ^Fuel economy comparison based on combined fuel consumption ratings for the full size vehicle class. Fuel consumption for the Sonata GL 6-speed manual (HWY 5.7L/100KM; City 8.7L/100KM) based on 2011 Energuide rating. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. ▲Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). The 5-star rating applies to all the trim levels of the 2011 Sonata produced between July 2nd and September 7th 2010. ∞Based on the November 2010 AIAMC report. ΔSee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. †Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions. $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charge of $0.10/km. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on new 2011 Accent L 3Dr./2011 Tucson L/2011 Santa Fe models with an annual finance rate of 0%/0%/0% for 48/60/60 months. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2011 Sonata GL 6-speed with an annual lease rate of 4.4%. Monthly payment is $299 per month for a 60 month walk-away lease. Down payment of $3,000 and first monthly payment required. Total lease obligation is $20,940. Lease offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495. Registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊†♦¶Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ∞Based on the November 2010 AIAMC report. ΔSee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. †Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.